



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LAKE MONTEZUMA MAN INDICTED FOR CROSS BURNING IN COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced today that a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a one count indictment against Thaddeus Ray Carroll, 28, of Lake Montezuma, Arizona.

The federal indictment alleges that defendant, in April of 1999, by force and threat of force, and with the use and attempted use of fire, did willfully intimidate and interfere with, and attempt to intimidate and interfere with an African-American because of her race and color and because she was occupying a dwelling, by placing and igniting a wooden cross in front of her home in Cottonwood, Arizona.

The federal indictment charges Thaddeus Ray Carroll with violating Title 42, United States Code, Section 3631. A conviction for violation of Section 3631 carries a maximum penalty of 10 years, a \$250,000 fine or both. A warrant will be issued for his arrest.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

(MORE)

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Cottonwood Police Department.

The prosecution is being handled by Ronald R. Gallegos, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona, and Michael Barr, Trial Attorney, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington D.C.

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